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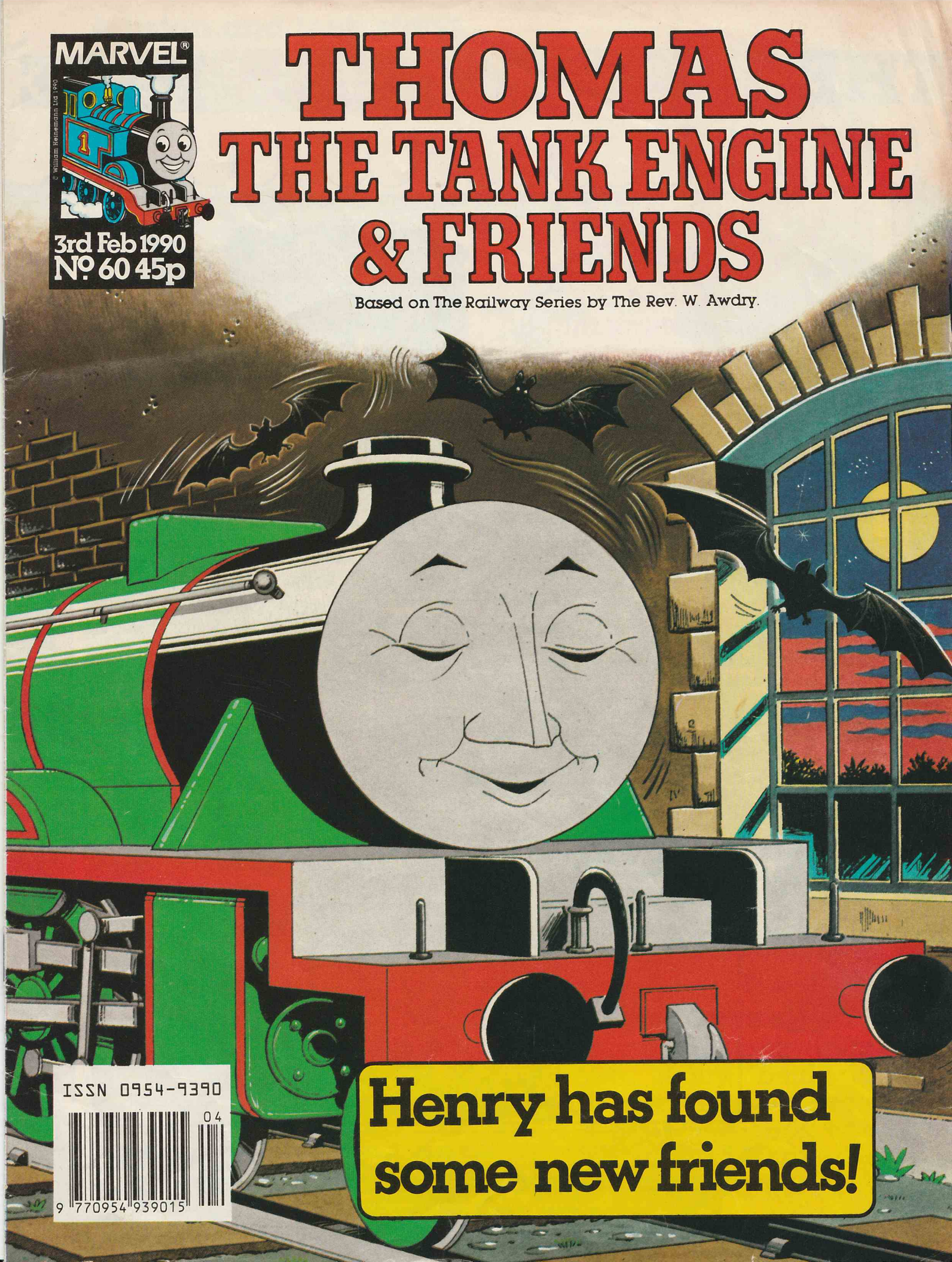
3rd Feb 1990
No. 60 45p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Henry has found some new friends!

ISSN 0954-9390

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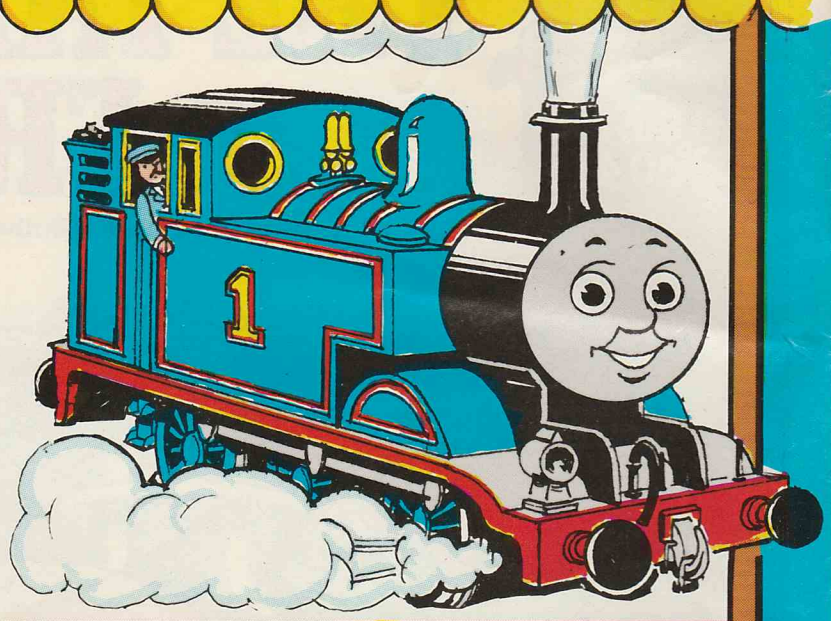
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Poor Henry has been having sleepless nights listening to strange noises in the shed. All the other engines think that it is just his imagination – until the Fat Controller finally decides that something must be done to solve the problem! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

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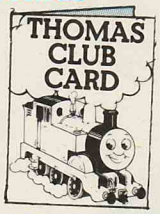


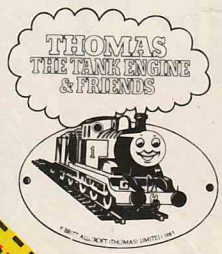
Please allow 28 days for delivery of your very own little black and white membership card plus number!

WELCOME!

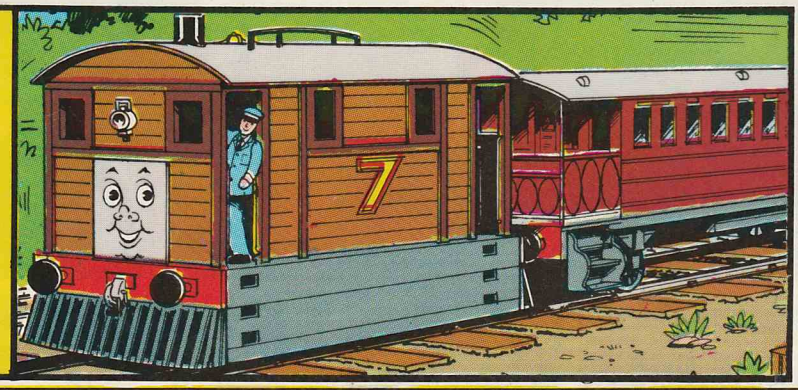
The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Thomas Brown (0319), aged 5, **Kevin Withey** (17265), aged 5, **Taieb Sghaier** from Tunisia, **Wayne Finter** (24605), **Alan Fennell,** aged 2 and **AJ Howard** (29504), aged 25!

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller, send him your name and details at the address shown on the letters page.



In our next issue: Toby the Tram Engine takes an unexpected passenger!



THOMAS TOKEN

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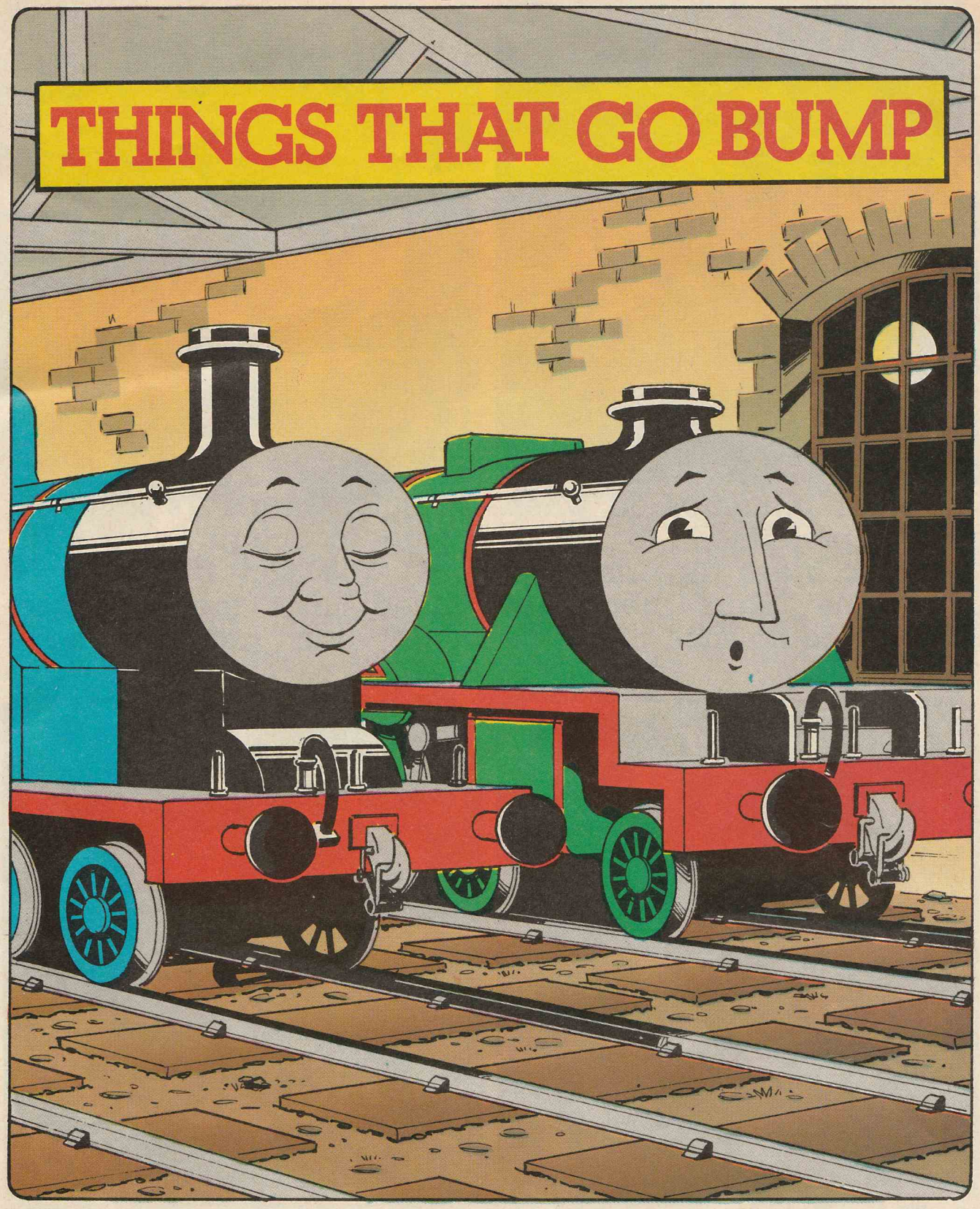
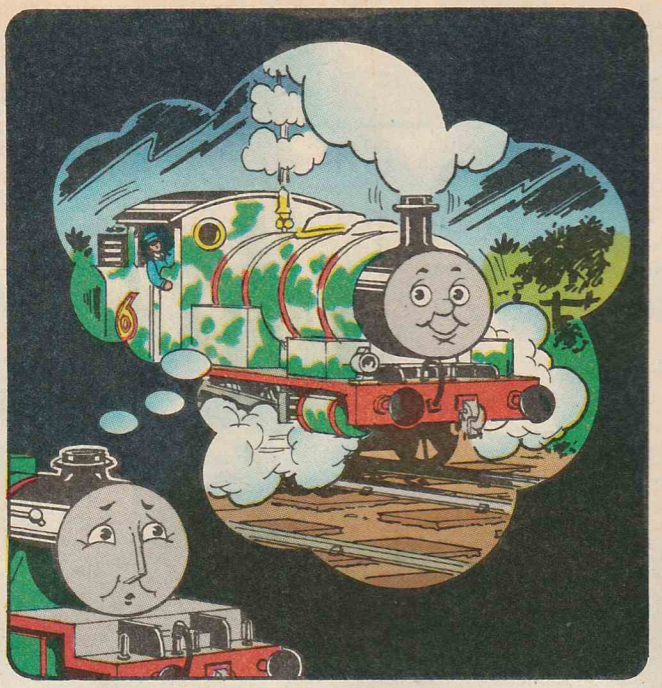
ABC

A listen and look story!

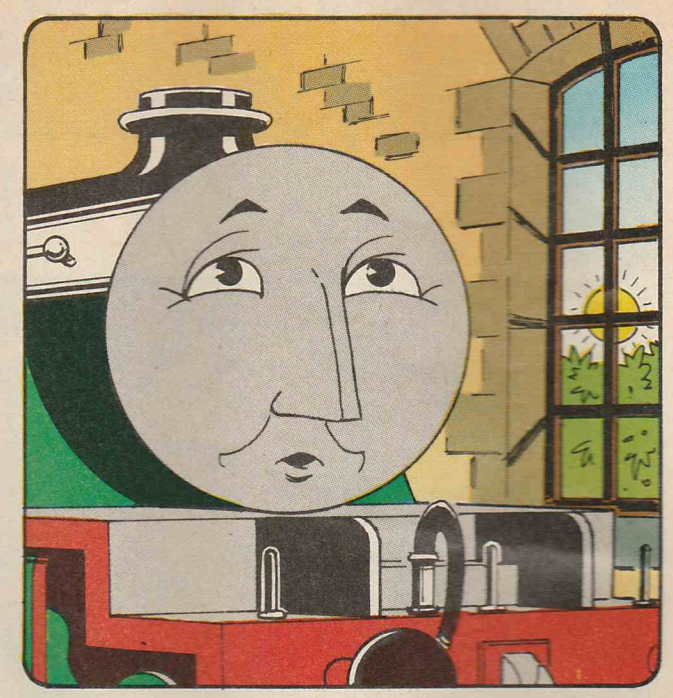


1. The engines had all been put in their sheds for the night. But Henry was restless. He couldn't get to sleep. He kept hearing strange noises in the dark.

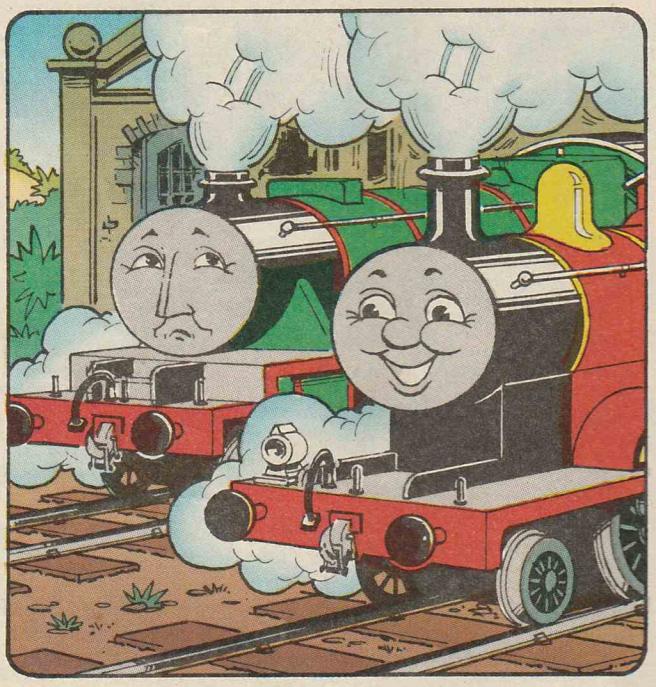
2. Bump, bump, bump, went the noise. Henry, being a nervous train, felt very worried. "Perhaps it's a ghost," he thought, wishing that the other trains were awake.



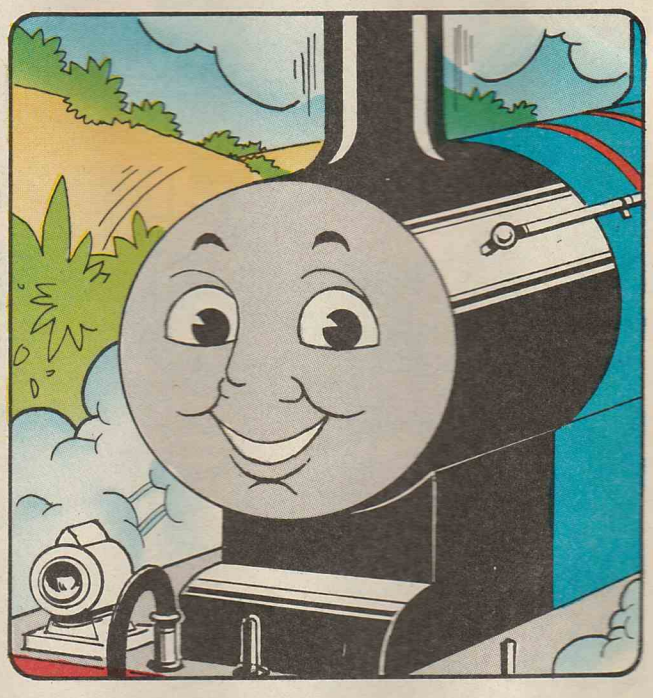
3. Henry remembered when Percy pretended to be a ghost to scare Thomas. "Silly me," he said nervously. "There are no such things as ghosts."



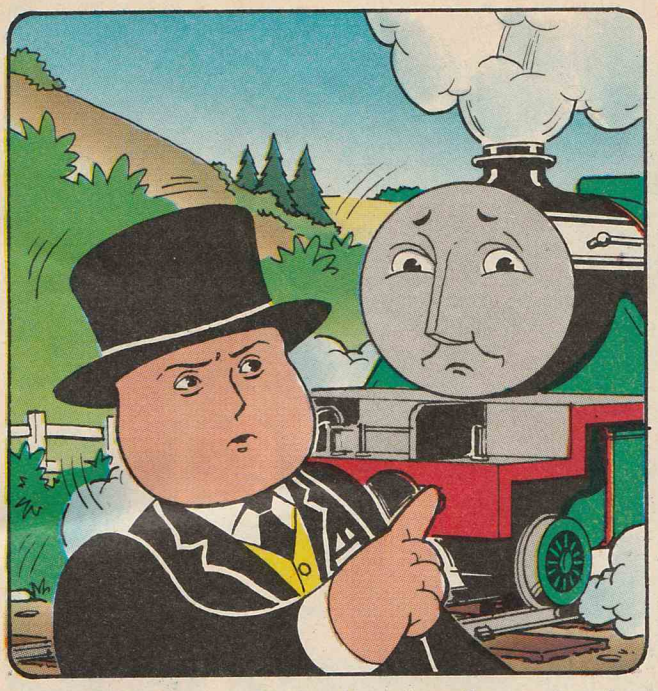
4. "But perhaps it's someone trying to break in to steal me." The soft bumps continued until the sun rose. Henry didn't get a moment's sleep.



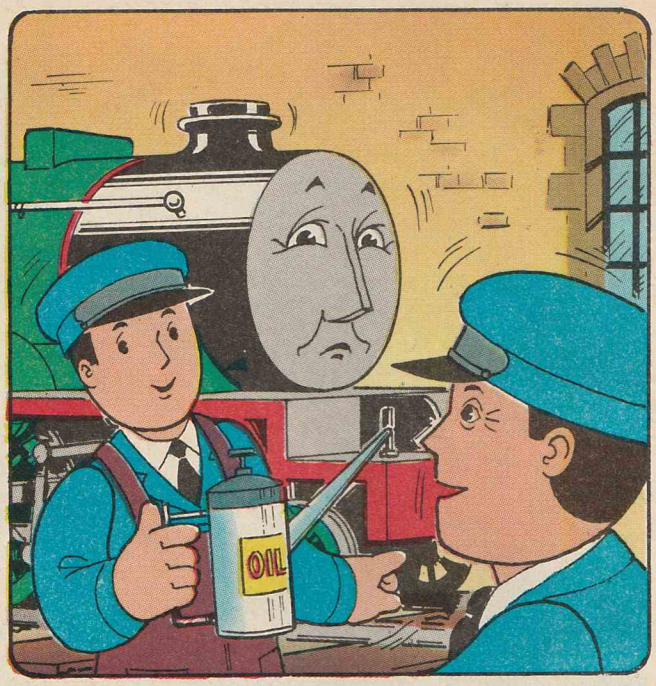
5. The other trains woke refreshed, looking forward to a busy day's work. "My joints feel stiff and I feel so tired," grumbled Henry.



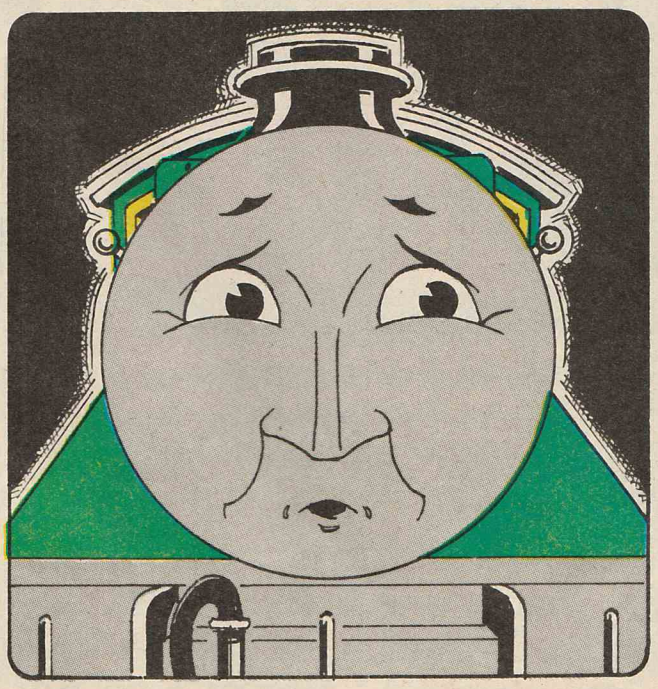
6. He told the other trains about the strange noises. They laughed at him. "It was probably a loose catch on the window," said Edward kindly.



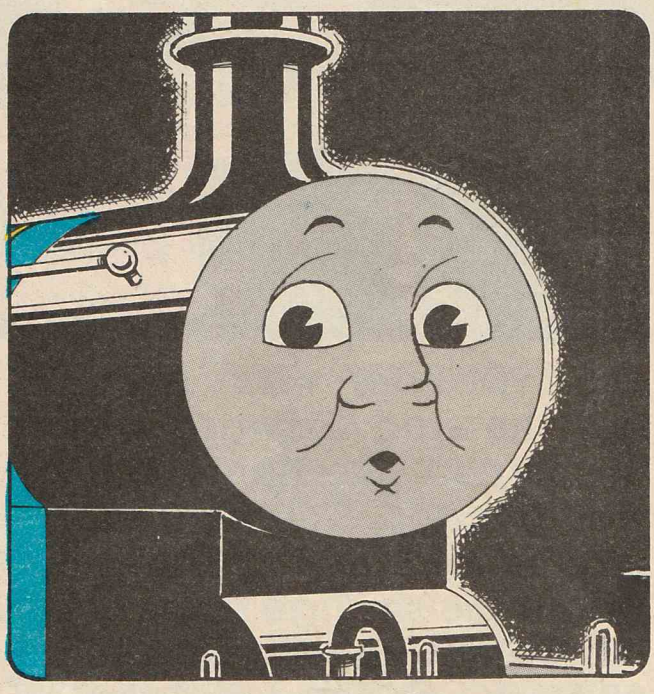
7. Henry didn't feel up to working. He moved at half-speed, and took twice as long to get his jobs done. The Fat Controller became very cross.



8. "His pistons seem stiff," said Henry's driver. Henry was taken to the workshop for his pistons to be greased. This made him faster. but he was still tired.



9. Henry didn't want to sleep in the shed that night, but his driver insisted. The other trains were soon asleep. Henry stayed awake, listening.



10. Bump, bump, bump, went the noise again. "Help, help," shouted Henry in fright. This woke up Edward. He was surprised to hear the sound too.

11. "I wonder what it could be?" he said. Edward wasn't frightened like Henry, but he was puzzled. The next morning, he told the Fat Controller about the strange noises. The Fat Controller sent in a team of workmen to look over the shed. The workmen were soon back to tell the Fat Controller what they had discovered.

12. "We have a family of long-eared bats roosting in the shed," the Fat Controller told the trains. "They've moved into the warm shed to keep out of the cold. They made those bumping noises as they flew around." Henry was not scared now. "The bats can keep me company when I have sleepless nights," he said.

THE END

In our next issue: Fuel line!

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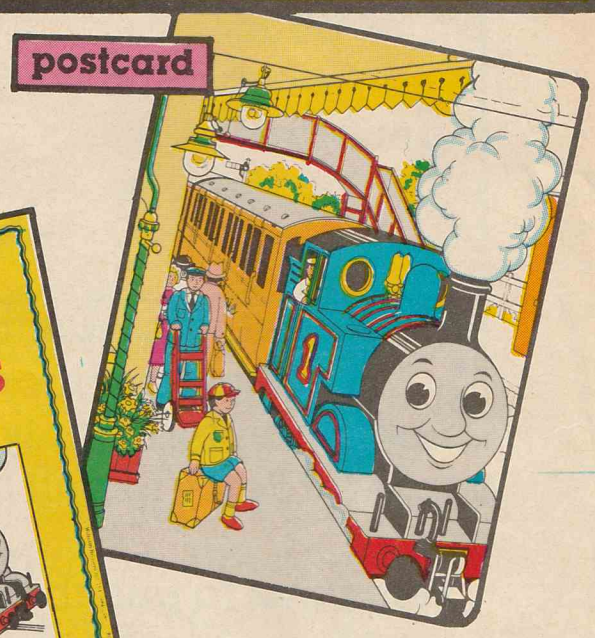

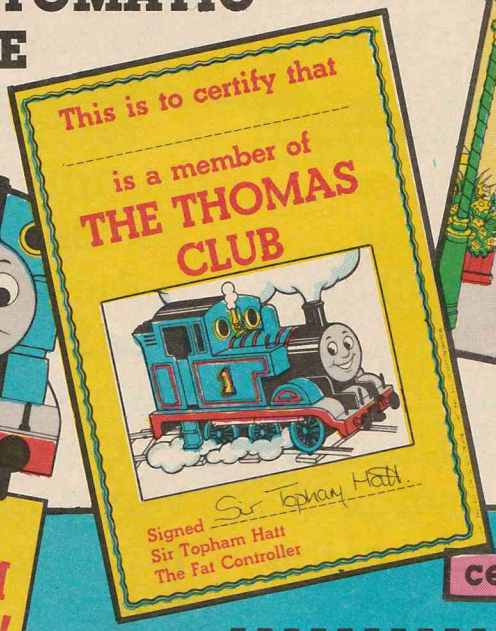

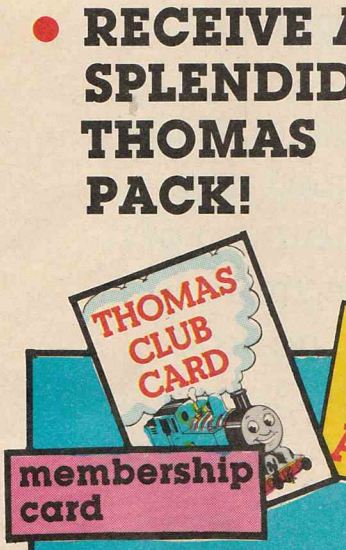

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See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACK for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shop now!

A read-aloud story!

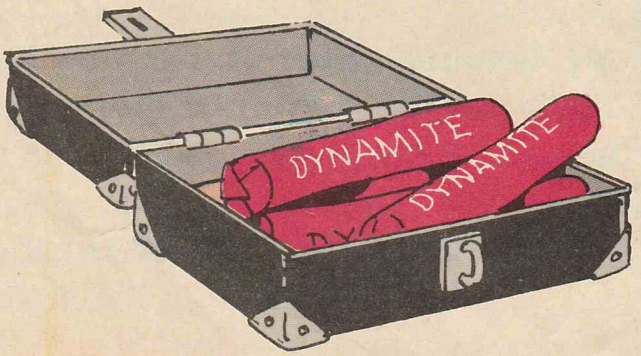
Dynamite for the Quarry!

Diesel was working at the main station, shunting empty trucks for Percy to pull to the quarry.

Percy was to pull the guard's van too. Inside the van was placed a small metal box. On the lid of the box, marked in big red letters was the word: Danger!

"I wonder what that can be?" said Percy curiously.

"I know! I know!" said Diesel, chuckling. "You're carrying a box of dynamite! They need it to blow rocks out of the quarry!"



dynamite

Percy didn't like the sound of that! "Is it dangerous?" he asked Diesel.

Diesel could see that Percy was frightened, and was enjoying every moment of it.

"Oooh! Yes! Dynamite is very dangerous!" he said happily. "One little bump as you're travelling along, and – booooom!"

"Booooooom?" squeaked Percy, now very scared indeed.

"Booooooom!" chuckled Diesel. "And if that happens, all you'll be good for is the scrap yard!"

This was too much for Percy. "I don't want to be blown up!" he whistled, frantically. "I won't take the dynamite! I won't!"

"If you don't, the Fat Controller will send you to the scrap yard for sure!" said Diesel.

Diesel went off to shunt more trucks, feeling very pleased with himeself for upsetting Percy.

"Ready to go, Percy?" asked his driver, climbing into the cab. He released the brake, and Percy pulled out of the station. He went very slowly indeed.

"Goodness, Percy," said his driver. "Whatever's the matter? Is your brake still on or something?"

Percy didn't reply. He was too scared to go fast in case he hit a bump and the dynamite exploded!

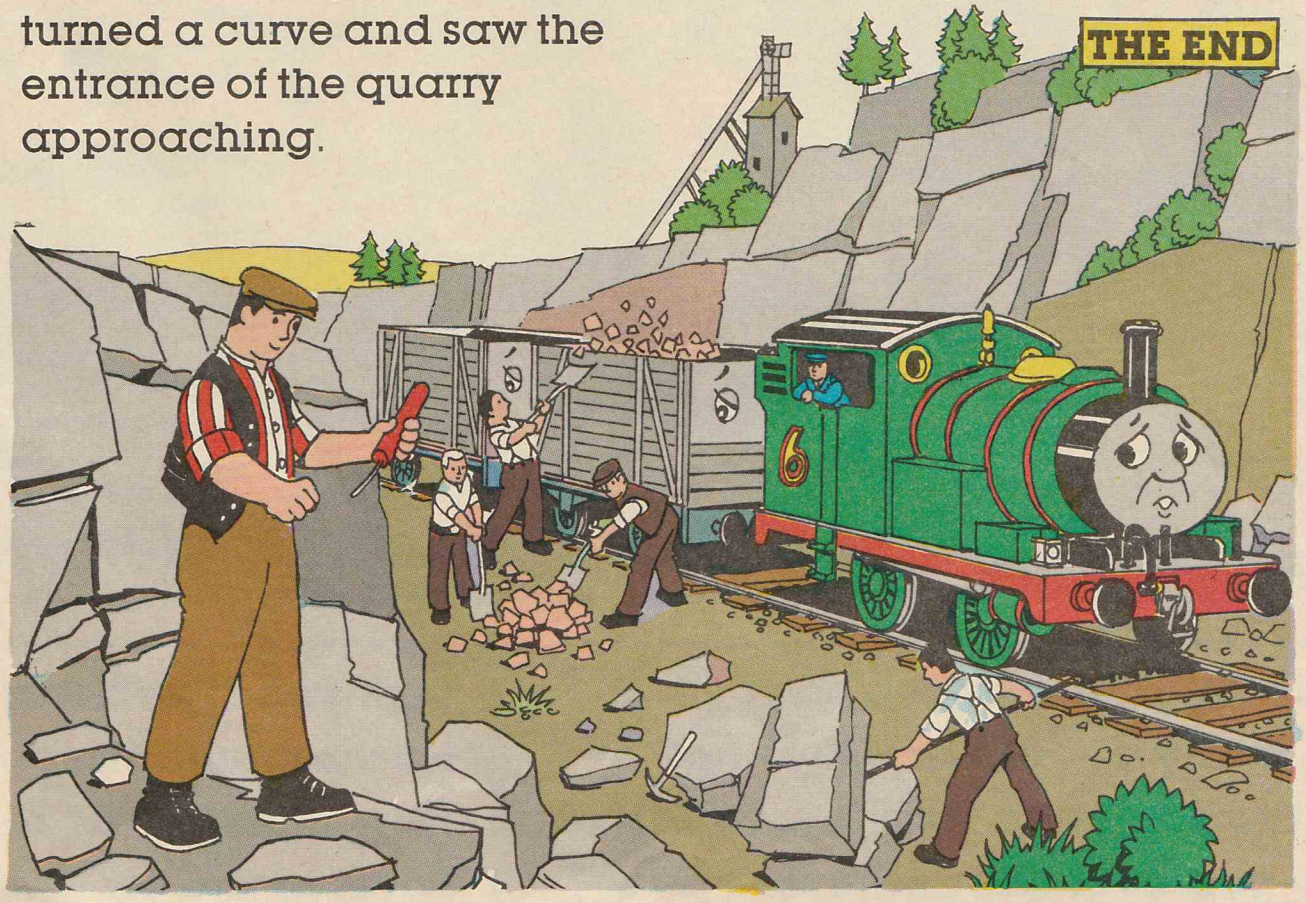
He was very glad when he turned a curve and saw the entrance of the quarry approaching.

Suddenly he did hit a bump! There was a loud bang – **Booooooom**!

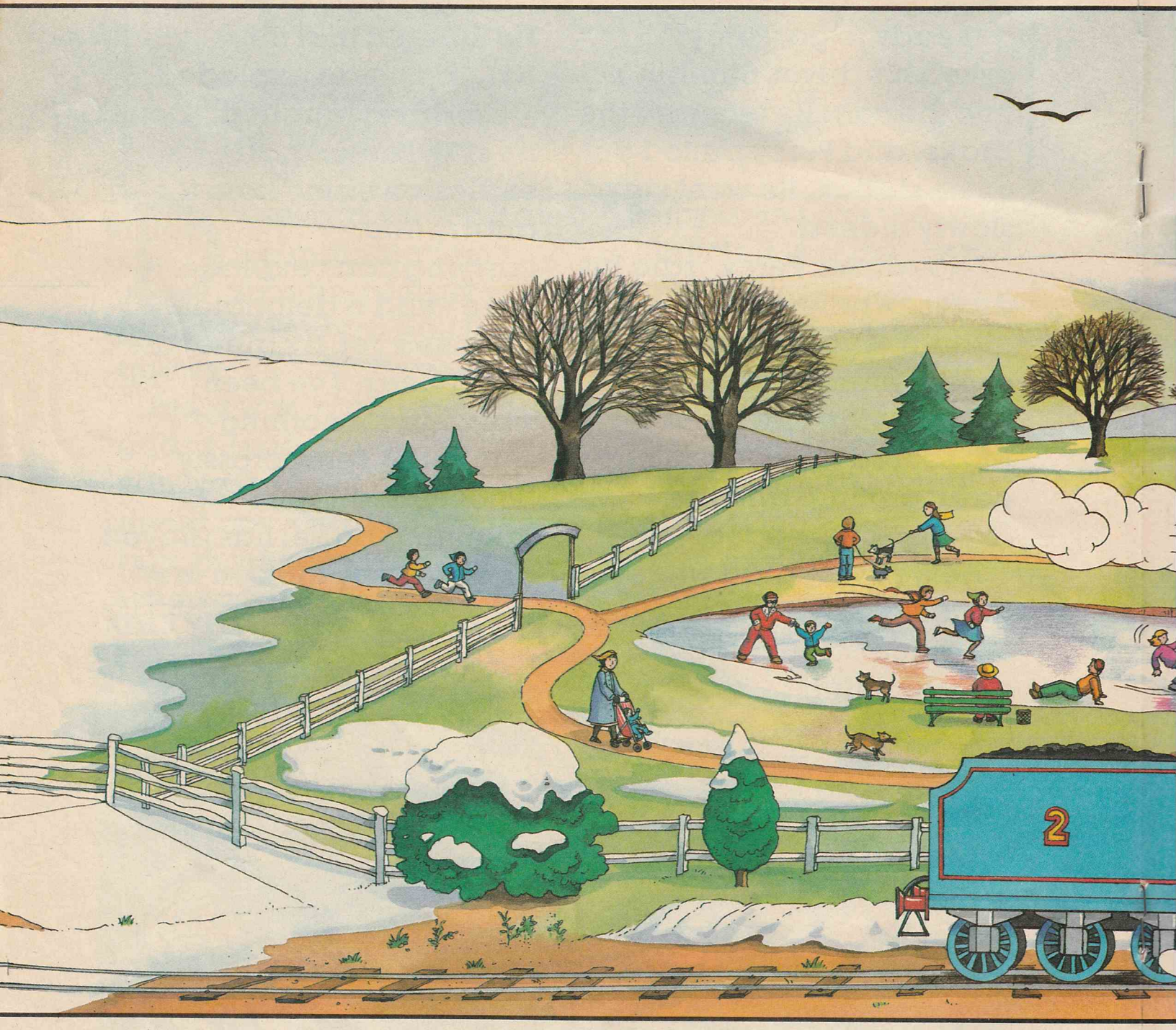
"Help, help!" cried Percy. He thought that the dynamite had exploded.

His driver laughed. "Don't be silly, Percy! That explosion came from the quarry. The dynamite you're carrying can't explode. It hasn't had a detonator attached yet. It's quite safe!"

"Oh dear, I've been worrying for nothing?" spluttered Percy crossly. "Pheeeessssh! That scheming Diesel has played another dirty trick on me!"



By the park



Which engine can you see?
How many people are skating?
Point to someone who has fallen over!
Have you ever slipped over on ice?

Can you find two dogs play
How many birds' nests can
How many birds are flying?
Point to the football!

k!

playing together?
can you find in the big tree?
ing?

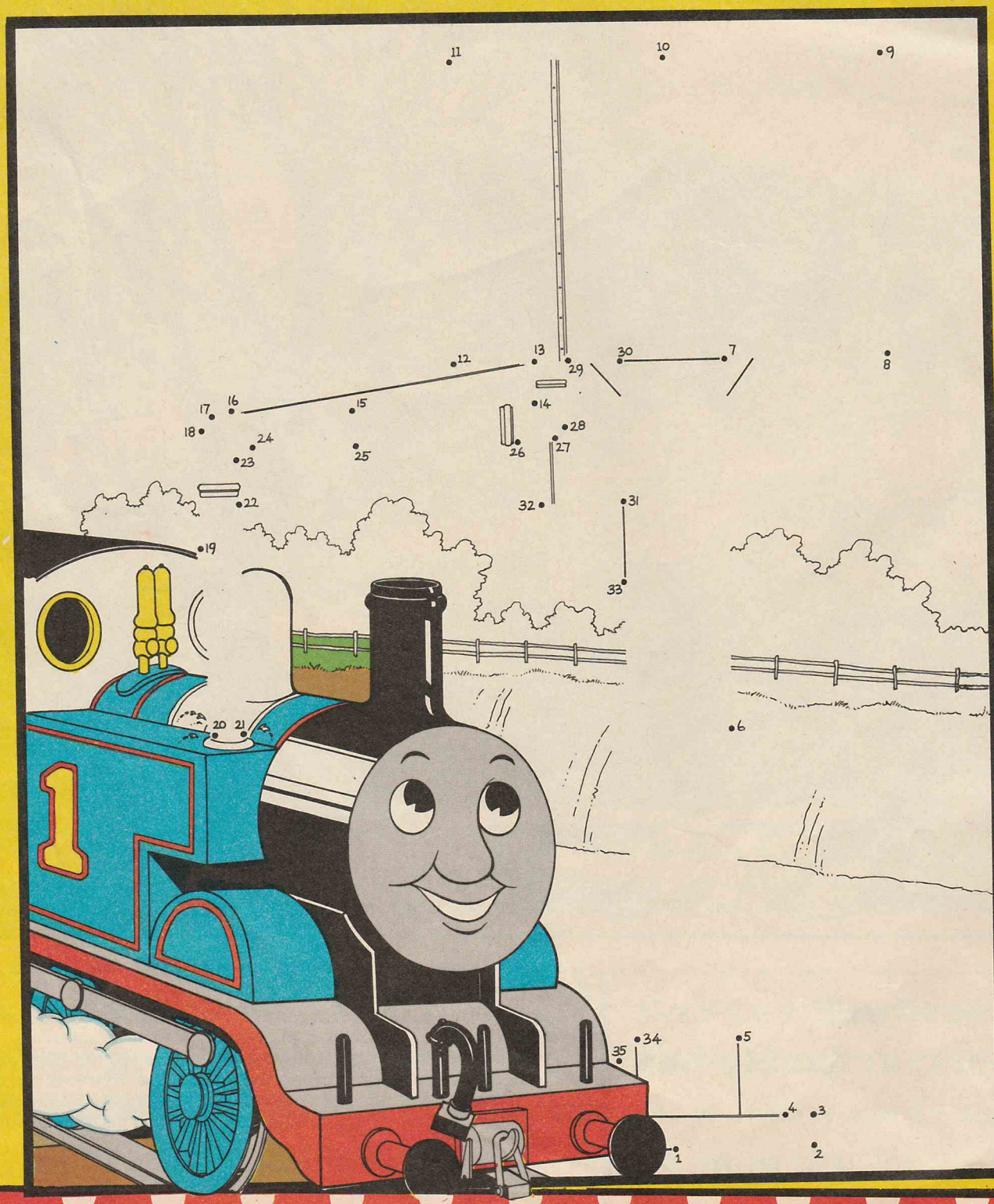
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

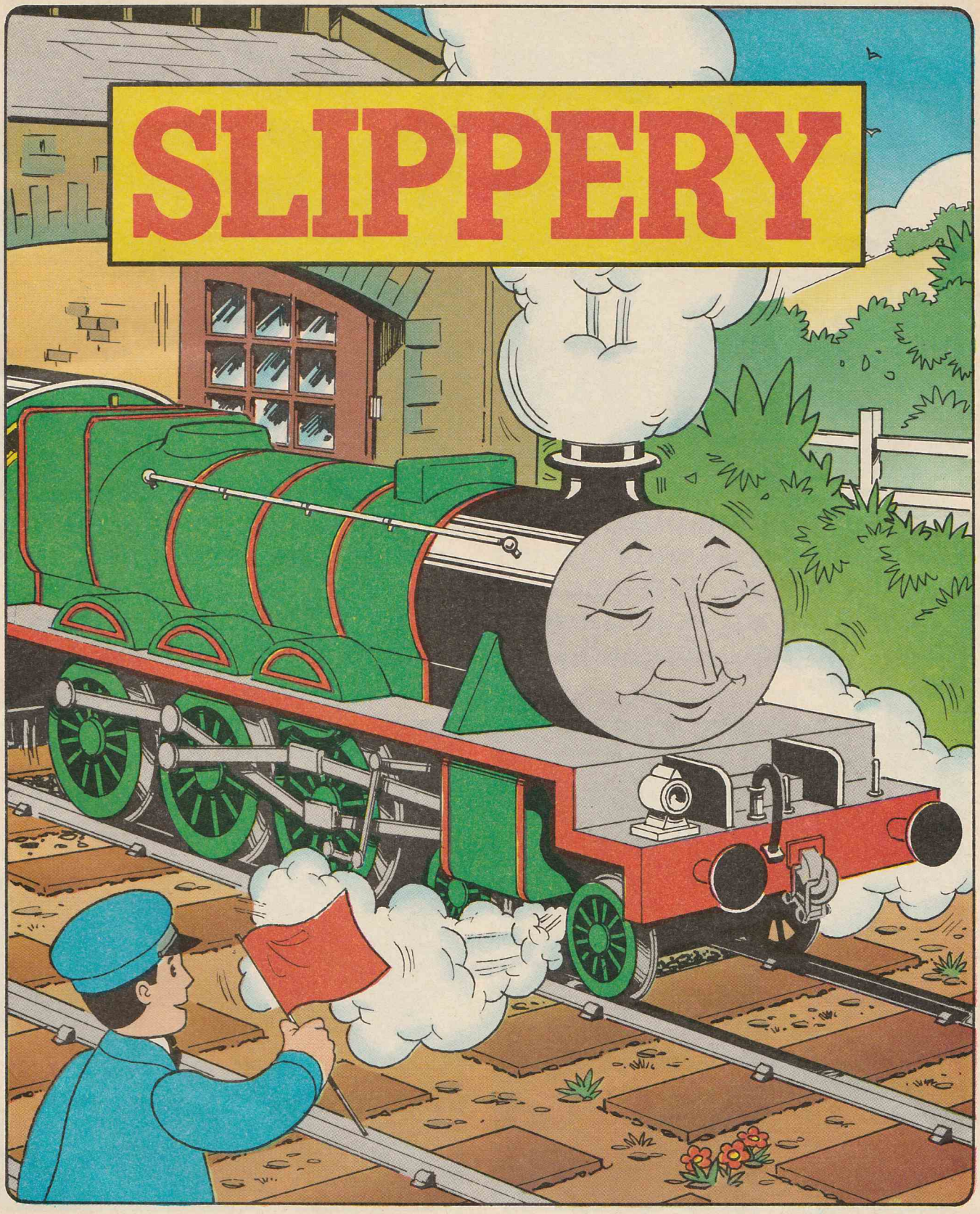
Next issue: Through the storm!

JOIN THE DOTS!

To make this picture come alive, Join the dots from 1 to 35!

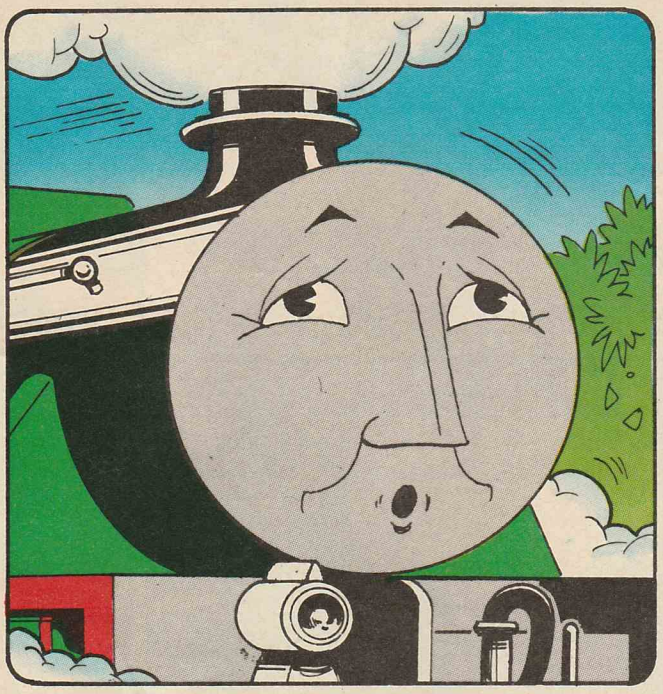


A listen and look story!

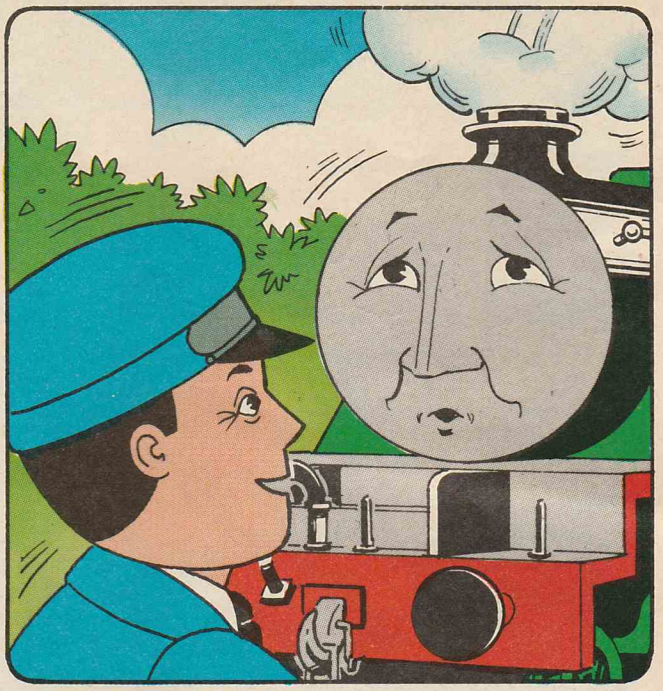


1. It was early one winter's morning on the Island of Sodor. The engines were just waking up. The weather was very cold. Chilly winds were blowing in from the sea.

2. Henry was the first to wake up. His fireman was just stoking up his boiler. "It's time to start work," he called. Henry felt drowsy.



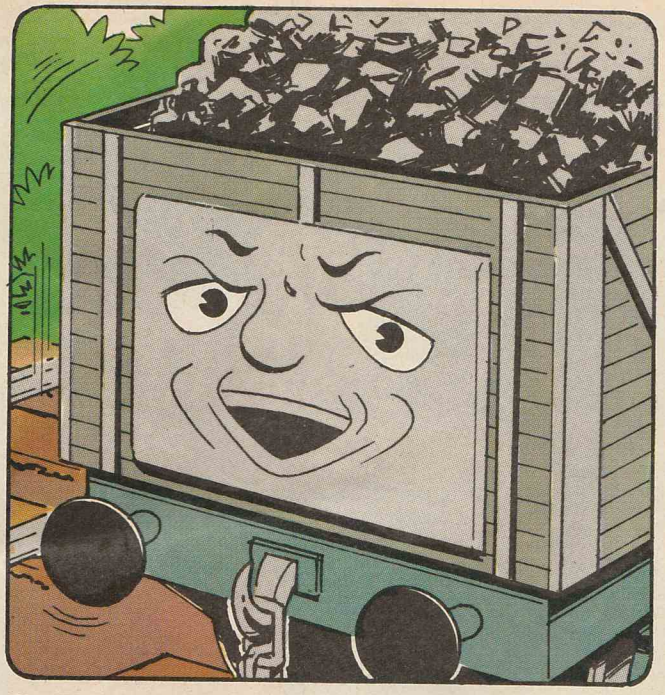
3. "Hullo," mumbled Henry. "Is it morning already? I can't see the sun yet. It seems that I'm getting up earlier every-day!" "Ha ha!" laughed Hen-ry's driver.



4. "You're not getting up any earlier," he explained. "It's the sun that's rising later, Henry. The days are slowly getting shorter."

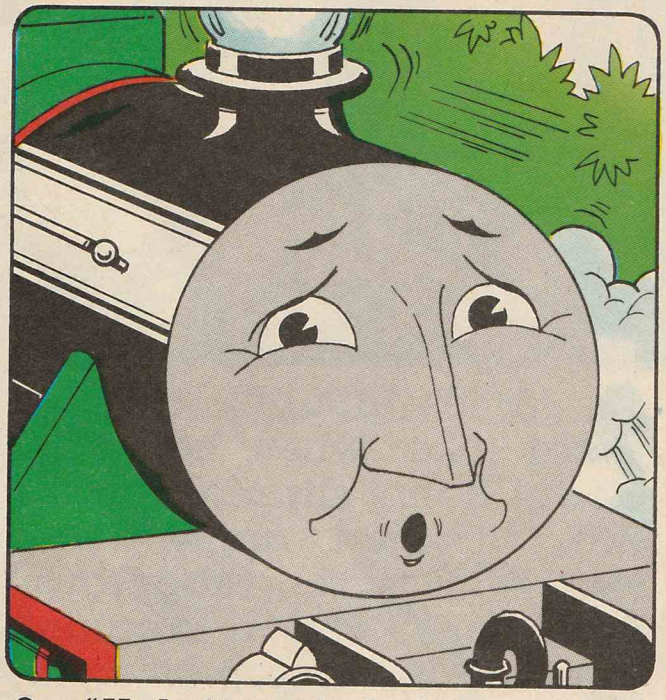
5. Henry was beginning to warm up nicely. His fire was burning well now. The men's breath looked like steam in the cold air. Henry thought it was very funny.

6. "Ho ho," he laughed at his guard. "You look like an engine yourself!" Henry set off to collect his goods train. The trucks were full of coal for winter heating.

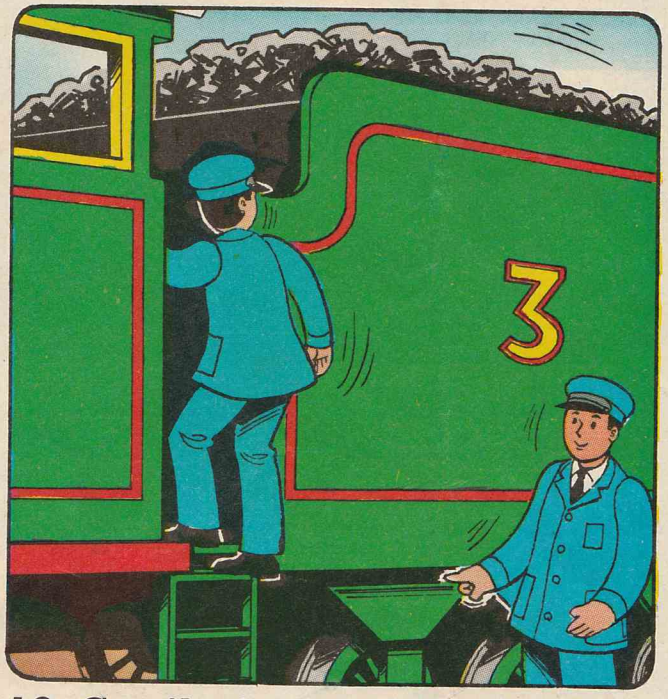


7. Henry was coupled up and off he went. "It's too cold! It's too cold!" complained the trucks. "Come along now!" said Henry. They came to Gordon's Hill.

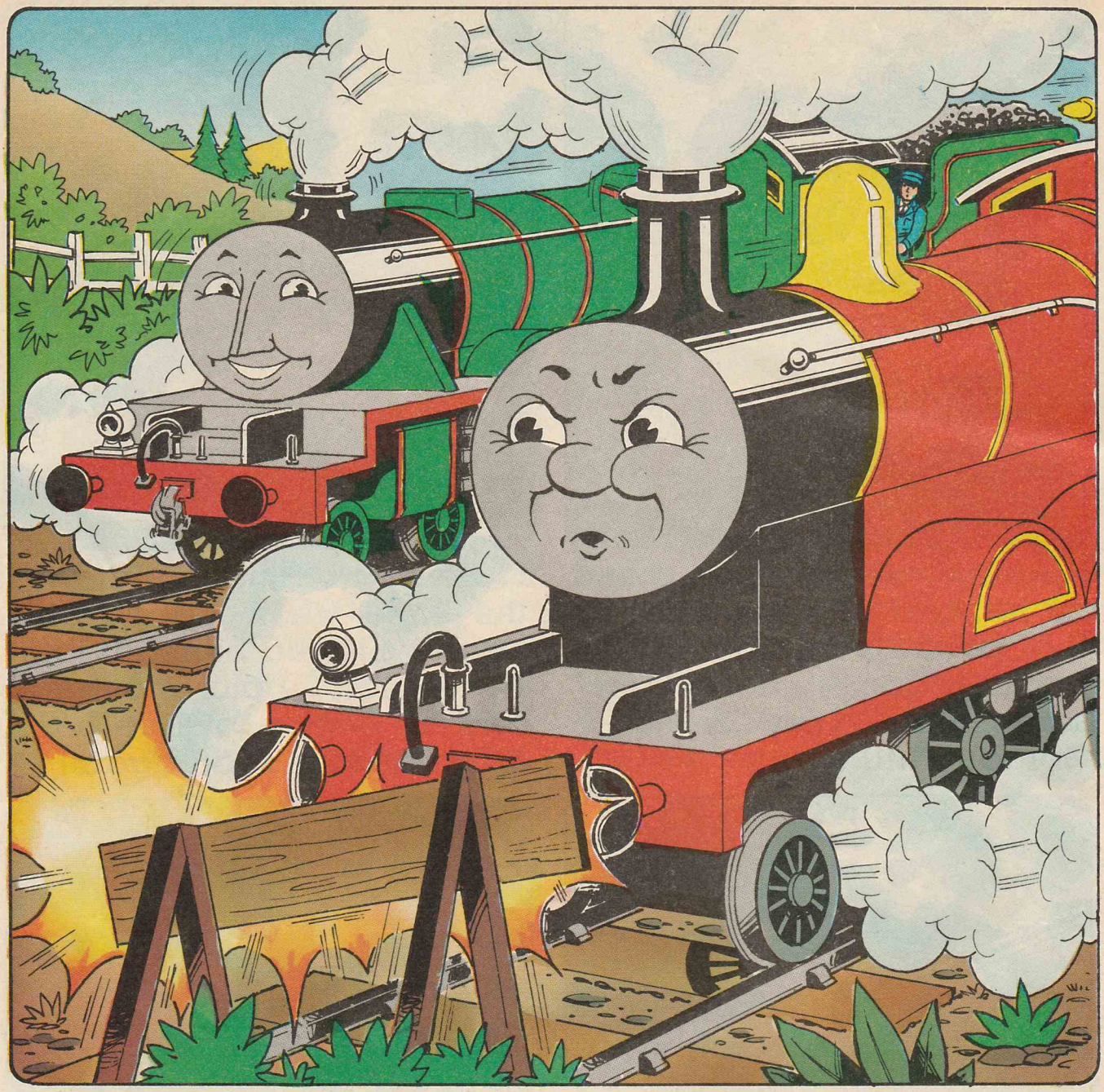
8. Henry was just pulling up the slope, when suddenly his wheels slipped beneath him! He couldn't hold the track and he began to slide back down Gordon's Hill again!



9. "Help!" cried Henry. His driver put the brakes on, but that only made it worse! **SKREEE!** Henry and his trucks went sliding down. Henry's driver eased the brakes off.



10. Gently, he tried the brakes again. This time they held. Henry came to a stop just below the hill. "It's ice on the line," his driver said. "It needs clearing."



11. The men poured salt on the icy patch to help make it melt. Henry set out once again. He kept waiting to slip, but this time he didn't. He came to the top of Gordon's Hill just as the sun was coming up. "That should help melt the rest of the ice," said Henry. "It's too bright! It's too bright!" complained the grumpy trucks.

12. James thought it was a great joke, when he heard about Henry slipping on the hill. "It's not funny," said Henry. "It was dangerous!" But James kept on laughing until **he** tried to stop on an icy siding. **SKREEE!** He slid right up to the buffers and hit them with a THUMP! "It's not funny!" protested James. Henry didn't say a word.

THE END

In our next issue: Hearing things!

COMPETITION

ERTL

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ALL ENTRIES MUST REACH US BY 16TH FEBRUARY 1990.

Name .....
Address .....
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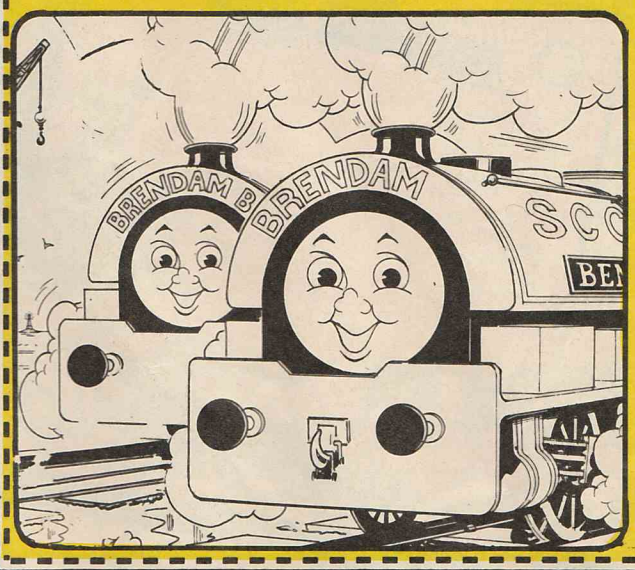
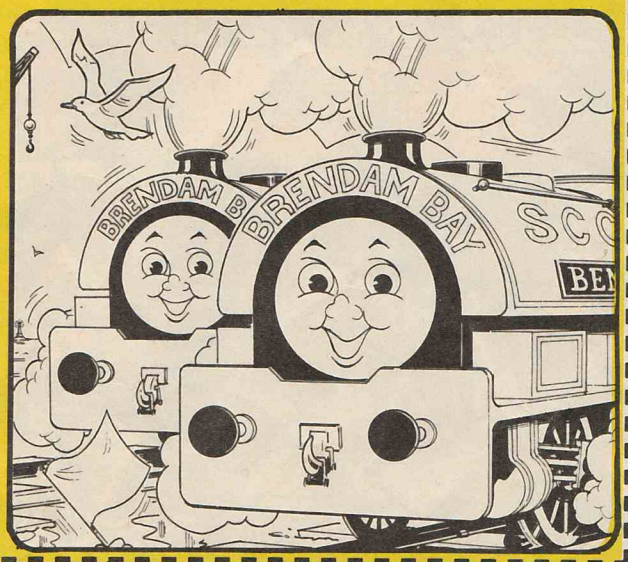
..... **Age** .....
My favourite engine is .....
Because .....

The first 70 correct entries pulled from our mailbag will win one of the splendid prizes listed above!





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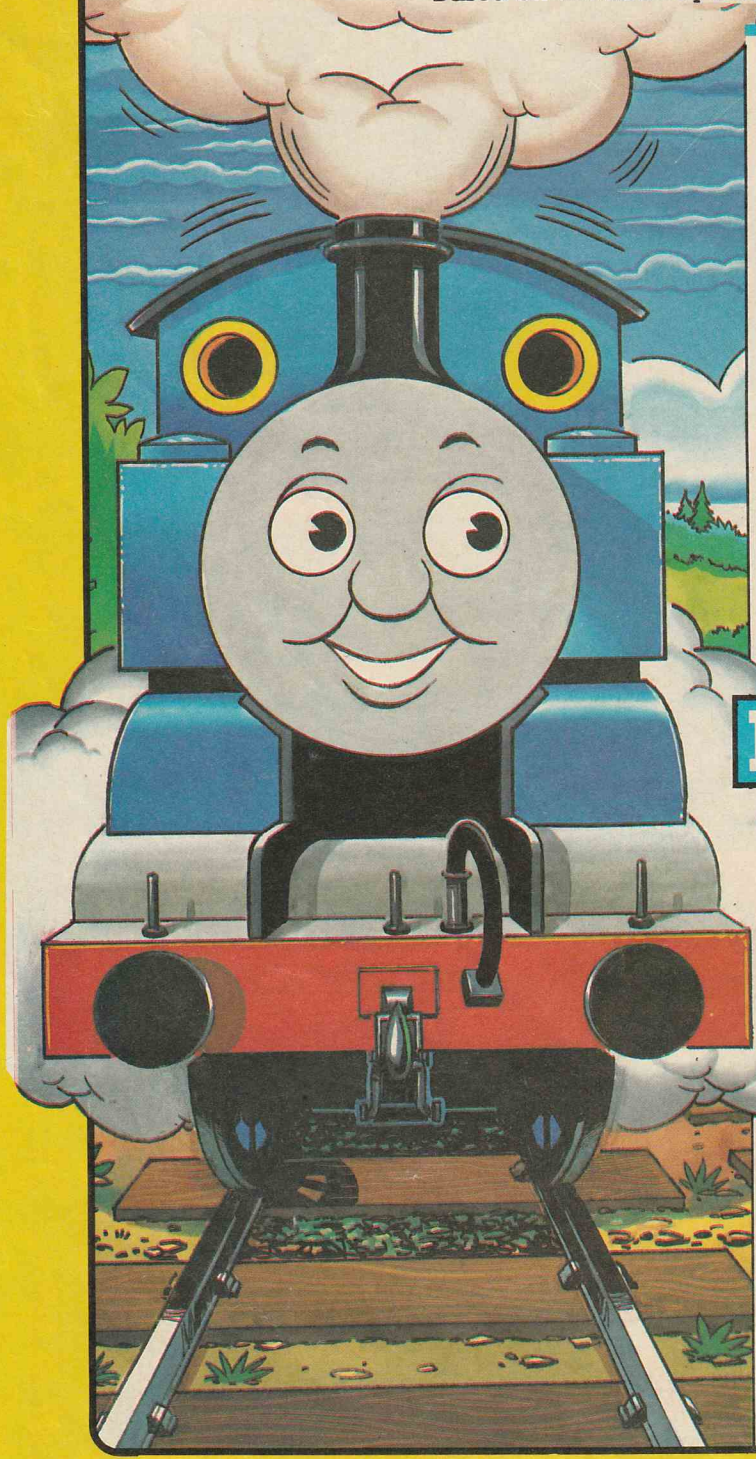
IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends learn all sorts of interesting things as they puff round the Island of Sodor.
Jump aboard and you can come too!

EVERY MONTH!

Learning is fun with THOMAS!

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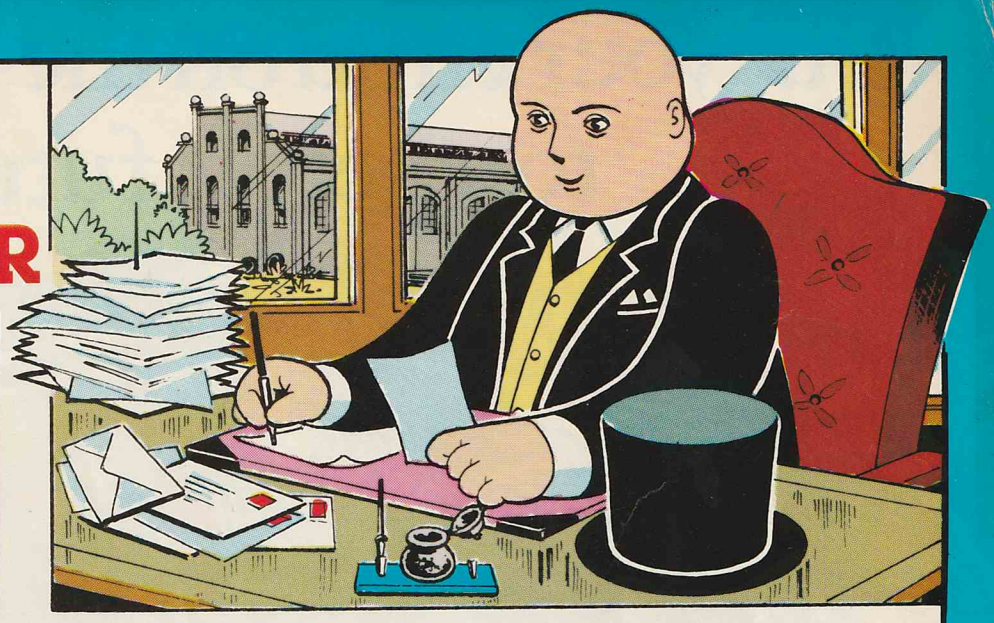
Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Mummy has just bought me a brand new pair of Wellington boots with pictures of Thomas the Tank Engine on them. Now, whenever we go shopping, I put them on and then make steam with my breath. I even makes noises just like Thomas too. Peep! Peep! Lots of love from **Adam,** aged 6.

Gracious me, what a lucky chap you are to have such a splendid pair of boots. They must keep your feet terribly warm indeed!

★★★★★★★★★

Adam wins a splendid Thomas the Tank remote control engine from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

SAME CLOTHES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Why do you always wear the same hat and jacket? When I go out with my mummy and daddy I have to wear my hat and coat too!

Love from **Richard.**

Even though it seems that I always wear the same hat and jacket, I can assure you that they are often changed. It just so happens that all of my clothes for work are exactly the same!

COUNTING SHEEP!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Edward. Could you tell me what Edward does at night when he can't sleep? I count sheep!
Love from **Philip,** aged 5.

Now then, let me see . . . I don't think that he counts sheep – he probably counts lumps of coal instead!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best wishes go to:

Barnaby Webb (25168), Robert Driver (23733), Anthony Newly, Martin Irving, Mark James Watson (31261), Neal Sean Adams, Gavin Leithall (27913), Neal Allen, Shannon Richards, Alan Evans, Steven Litton (25349), Ross Morton (1721), Andrew Charsley, James Emerson, Hannah Elizabeth Causer (2900), Michael Sullivan, Graham Reynolds (27231), Neil MacClachlan, Martyn French (27377), Liam Conners (25820), George Roberts, David Williams, Gareth Thomas (4660), Matthew Reading, David Christopher (8156), Gary Story (28525) and Robin Seaton (26739).

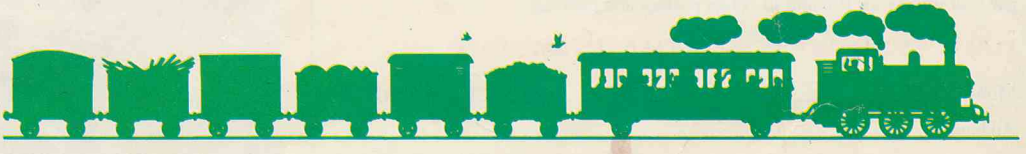
Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a mention here, just send details on a **postcard** please, at least 9 weeks in advance!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.



Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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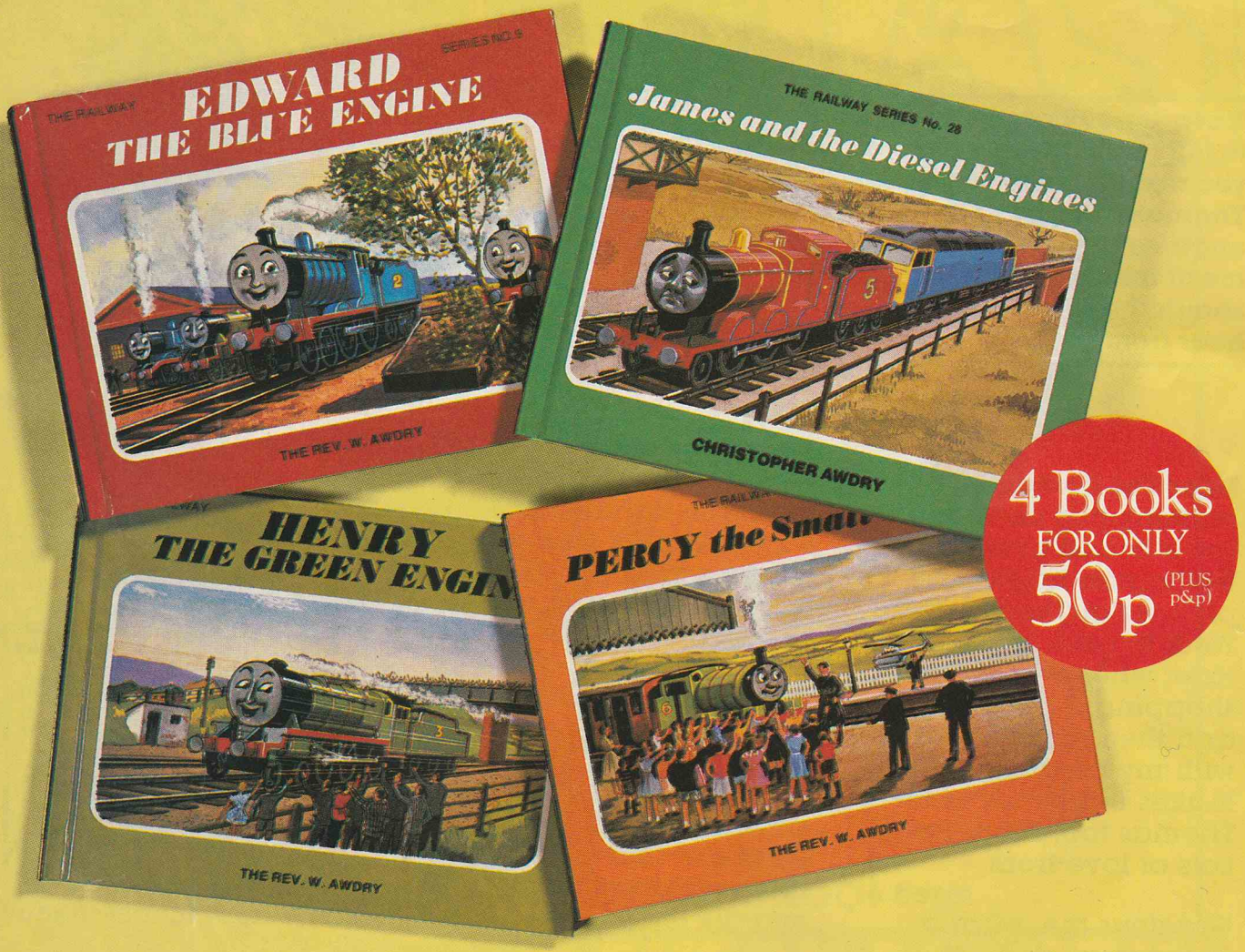

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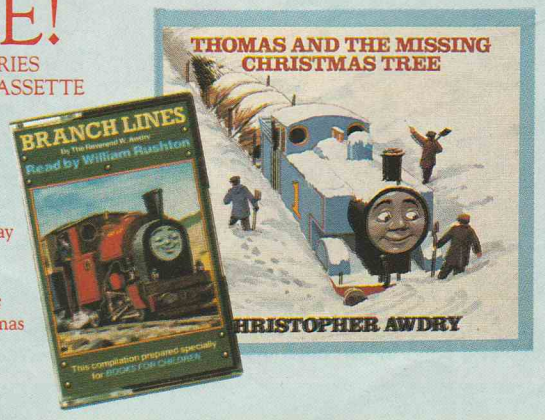
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